

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

1	2	3	4	5
28.	Uttaranchal	366.37	235.09	131.29
29.	West Bengal	7072.66	4486.98	2585.68
30.	A & N Islands	190.63	118.09	72.54
31.	Chandigarh	58.43	32.03	26.40
32.	Lakshadweep	0.01	0.00	0.01
33.	Pondicherry	20.38	0.00	20.38
34.	Dadra & N.H.	0.07	0.00	0.07
35.	Daman & Diu	0.02	0.00	0.02

Air pollution in metropolis

*191. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fresh study has been undertaken on the level of air pollution in the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce the pollution levels and the time bound programme drawn up, if any, for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The ambient air quality is monitored regularly through a network of monitoring stations under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. The annual

averages of criteria air pollutants in four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai during the year 2000 are as follows:—

Annual average concentration of Air Pollutants during 2000

S. No.	City	Type of Area	In microgram per cubic metre		
			Sulphur dioxide	Nitrogen dioxide	Suspended Particulate Matter
1.	Delhi	Residential Areas	17	31	370
		Industrial Areas	19	36	433
2.	Mumbai	Residential Areas	9.7	30	241
		Industrial Areas	11	34	270
3.	Chennai	Residential Areas	8.5	16	105
		Industrial Areas	7.7	15	96
4.	Kolkata	Residential Areas	14	30	280
		Industrial Areas	27	45	416

(c) The steps taken to control pollution include the following:—

(i) A comprehensive policy for abatement of pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.

(ii) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments.

(iii) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi and Mumbai to cater to the CNG vehicles.

(iv) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities.

(v) Benzene concentration in petrol has been reduced.

(vi) Action Plans to control pollution in Delhi and Mumbai have

been prepared and are being implemented. Similar Action Plans have been prepared for the cities of Chennai and Kolkata.

(vii) A network of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (290) has been set up throughout the country.

(viii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(ix) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipment before commissioning of their plants.

(x) Industries are required to take consents from the respective State Pollution Control Boards under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Time bound Action Plans were drawn up and implemented specially for improving fuel quality, phasing out leaded petrol, reduction of benzene in petrol and notifying stricter emission norms.

UGC grants to Karnataka

***192. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UGC has announced reduction in amount of grants for Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, no such reduction has been announced.

(b) Does not arise.

Agricultural development in Tamil Nadu

***193. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance given by Government for starting various agricultural development works in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;